

From: RubinVicki@aol.com  
Sent: Sunday, January 14, 2001 6:47 PM  
To: EXECSEC  
Subject: Monitor Use of Antibiotics in Agriculture  
Dear Commissioner Jane Henney:

Reliable data on antibiotic use in agriculture is urgently needed to determine if the regular use of antibiotics is contributing to the increased incidence of drug-resistant disease organisms. I urge you to do all in your power to expedite collection of this critical data.

The rise in antibiotic resistance is slowly eliminating the effectiveness of many drugs for treating infectious diseases in people. While the misuse of antibiotics in human medicine is the larger contributor to the problem, there is suspicion that the overuse of antibiotics in agriculture is also impacting human health by contributing to the rise in drug-resistant microorganisms.

There are very few publicly available data sources on the quantity of antibiotics used in the United States - such data is necessary for scientists to explore the links between antibiotic use and the development of drug resistance and for developing rational strategies to curb antibiotic over-use, if such efforts are needed. Government information on U.S. antibiotic use is necessary.

The Food and Drug Administration must recognize the need for collecting such information, and to establish the needed system. The system for collecting basic information should be set up for both human and agricultural use and should include the class, indication, dosage, and treatment period to allow accurate conclusions to be reached.

Please reply to this e-mail and let me know of your thoughts and intentions with respect to this critical matter of general concern.

Thank you,

Mr. Rubin Alspector  
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